

2007 Health Manpower Survey on Pharmacists

Key Findings

- The pharmacists covered in the 2007 HMS were pharmacists registered with the Pharmacy and Poisons Board of Hong Kong under the Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance (Chapter 138) as at the survey reference date i.e. 31.8.2007.
- The number of pharmacists covered in the 2007 HMS was 1 705.
- Of the 1 705 registered pharmacists covered, 1 061 had responded to the survey, giving an overall response rate of 62.2%. As at 31.8.2007, 846 (79.7%) of the responding pharmacists were economically active^{*†} (active) while 215 (20.3%) reported to be economically inactive^{**‡} (inactive) in the local pharmacy profession (*See chart*).
- Of the 846 active pharmacists, 831 (98.2%) were practising in the local pharmacy profession, 12 (1.4%) were seeking jobs, two (0.2%) reported as having temporary sickness and one (0.1%) was waiting to take up new job in the local pharmacy profession during the 30 days before the survey.
- The survey findings presented below were based on the 831 responding pharmacists practising in the local pharmacy profession as at 31.8.2007. As some questionnaires contained missing information, percentages presented below may not add up to 100%.
 - (i) Among the 831 active pharmacists enumerated, 399 (48.0%) were male, 432 (52.0%) were female, giving an overall sex ratio of 92 (males per 100 females). Three pharmacists did not indicate their age. The median age of the remaining 828 active pharmacists enumerated was 38.0 years.
 - (ii) Distribution by sector of the main job[§] showed that 551 (66.3%) were working in the private sector, followed by 232 (27.9%) working in the Hospital Authority, 35 (4.2%) in the Government, 12 (1.4%) in the academic sector, and one (0.1%) in the subvented sector.
 - (iii) Of the 831 active pharmacists enumerated, 596 (71.7%) spent most of their working time in service in pharmacy^{||}. Those who spent most of the working time in administration / management[¶] and manufacturing / marketing / sales^{**} attributed to 98 (11.8%) and 82 (9.9%) respectively.
 - (iv) The median hours of work (excluding meal breaks) per week of the 831 active pharmacists enumerated was 44.0 hours. 118 (14.2%) pharmacists were required to undertake on-call duty in their posts, with a median of 12.0 hours of on-call duty (excluding normal duty) per week.
- Among the 215 inactive pharmacists (*See Chart*):-
 - (i) 109 pharmacists reported not practising in the pharmacy profession in Hong Kong and not seeking job in the local pharmacy profession during the 30 days before the survey. The reasons reported for not seeking job included: working in other professions (58.7%), retired (14.7%) (with median age being 64 years), wanted to take rest/having no motive to work/having no financial need (11.9%), engaged in household duties (8.3%), etc.
 - (ii) 97 pharmacists reported practising overseas and seven reported practising in the Mainland.

* In the survey, the criteria used in defining economically active/inactive followed those recommended by the International Labour Organization, which are also being used by the Census and Statistics Department in Hong Kong.

† “Economically active” pharmacists comprised all “employed” and “unemployed” pharmacists. “Employed” pharmacists referred to those pharmacists practising in the pharmacy profession in Hong Kong during the survey period, while “unemployed” pharmacists referred to those pharmacists who (a) were not practising in the local pharmacy profession during the survey period; (b) had been available for work during the seven days before the survey; and (c) had sought work in the local pharmacy profession during the 30 days before the survey.

‡ “Economically inactive” pharmacists comprised the responding pharmacists who were not practising in the pharmacy profession in Hong Kong during the survey period, but excluding those who had been on leave during the survey period and those who were economically active but “unemployed”.

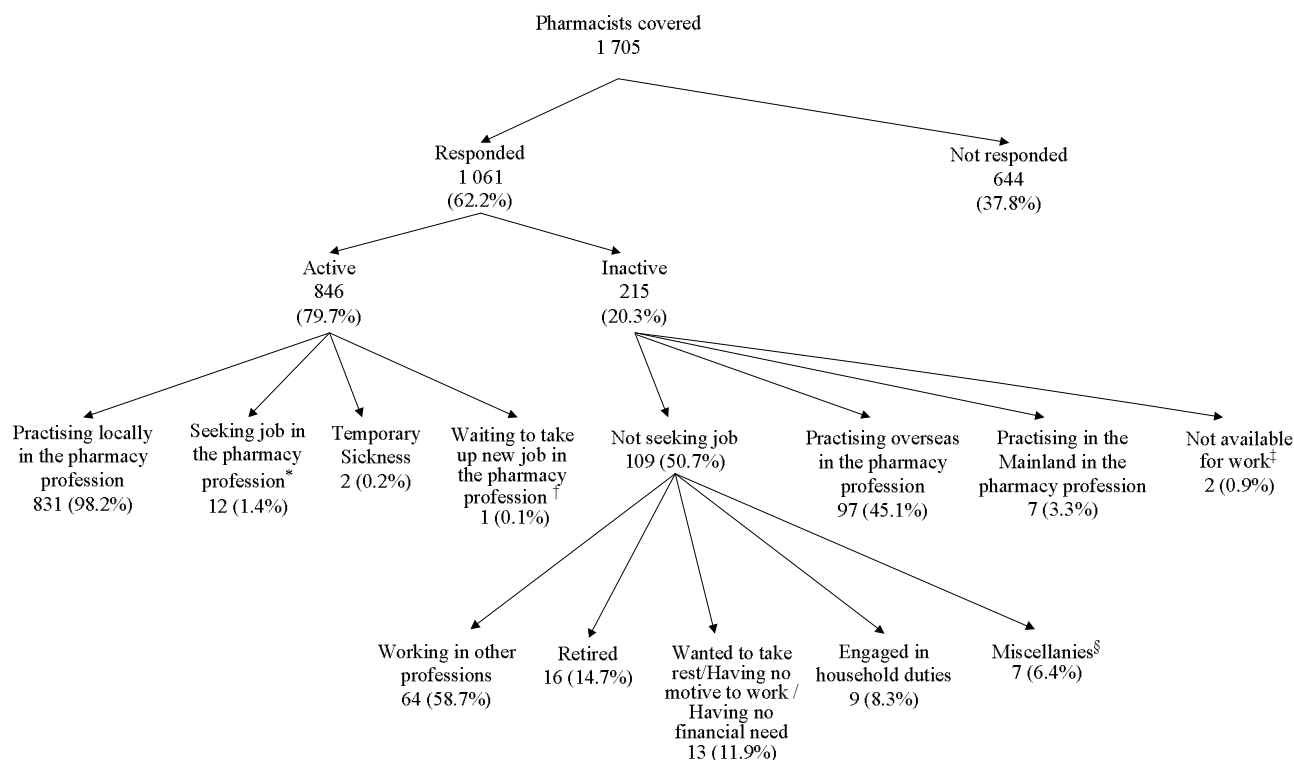
§ Main job referred to the job in which the pharmacists had spent most of their working time.

|| Service in pharmacy referred to the work which had direct contact with patients in dispensing and patient counselling.

¶ Administration / Management referred to the work which was out of scope of pharmacy such as supervising staff, accounting, budget control, procurement of drugs, etc.

**Manufacturing / Marketing / Sales referred to the work involving in the pharmaceutical company (wholesaler) or pharmaceutical manufacturer such as manufacturing, marketing and sales.

Activity Status of Pharmacists Covered



- Notes:
- * Figure refers to the number of responding pharmacists who (a) were not practising in the pharmacy profession in Hong Kong during the survey period; (b) had been available for work during in the local pharmacy profession during the seven days before the survey; and (c) had sought work in the local pharmacy profession during the 30 days before the survey.
 - † Figure refers to the number of responding pharmacist who (a) was not practising in the pharmacy profession in Hong Kong during the survey period; (b) had not been available for work during the seven days before the survey; and (c) was waiting to take up new job in the local pharmacy profession during the 30 days before the survey.
 - ‡ Figure refers to the number of responding pharmacists who (a) were not practising in the pharmacy profession in Hong Kong during the survey period; (b) had not been available for work during the seven days before the survey; and (c) had sought work in the local pharmacy profession during the 30 days before the survey.
 - § Figure refers to other reasons including the number of responding pharmacists who reported emigrated, undertaking study, etc.